## **CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

Investigator:			CCRB Case #:	✓ Force	✓ Discourt.	пиѕ
Andrew Ridge		APU	201705224	Abuse	_	_
Andrew Ridge		Aru	201703224	Abuse	O.L.	☑ Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:	•	Precinct:	18 Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Tuesday, 06/20/2017 4:00 PM		inside § 87(2)(b)		67	12/20/2018	12/20/2018
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported	: Date/Tim	e Received at CCI	RB
Wed, 06/21/2017 3:15 AM		IAB	Phone	Tue, 06/2	7/2017 2:17 PM	
Complainant/Victim	Туре	Home Add	ress	•		
Witness(es)		Home Add	ress			
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command			
1. DT3 William Vargas	06905	942652	WARRSEC			
2. DT3 Steve Richards	2920	937372	WARRSEC			
3. Officers			Unknown			
Witness Officer(s)	Shield No	Tax No	Cmd Name			
1. DT2 Marco Balboni	01237	921136	067 DET			
2. SGT Lawrence Bettex	04846	893558	WARRSEC			
3. POM Adam Geslak	29753	950488	ESS 07			
4. POF Djenane Pierre	02093	954238	067 PCT			
5. POM Yayonfrant Jeanpierre	02796	947104	067 PCT			
6. POM Kenneth Triolo	13535	957229	067 PCT			
7. POM Brandon Patane	14765	961077	067 PCT			
8. POM Fabian Modesto	08846	950897	067 PCT			
9. POM Richard Ortega	02674	956991	067 PCT			
10. SGT James Sinnott	00269	934188	067 PCT			
11. POF Deirdre Kelleher	17088	957731	067 PCT			
12. POF Blanca Morin	15790	957876	067 PCT			
13. POM Edward Batista	13051	950056	067 PCT			
14. POF Taylor Burger	29044	954581	104 PCT			
15. POM John Nemeth	17897	955259	067 PCT			
16. SGT Ali Javed	03782	947780	ESS 07			
17. DTS Jason Jackson	7402	938704	ESS 07			
18. DTS John Sylvestre	00242	931290	ESS 07			
19. POM Daniel Garcia	20856	948030	ESS 07			
20. DT2 Lenin Guerrero	07483	917726	ESS 07			
21. DT3 Philogene Breville	1201	940974	WARRSEC			

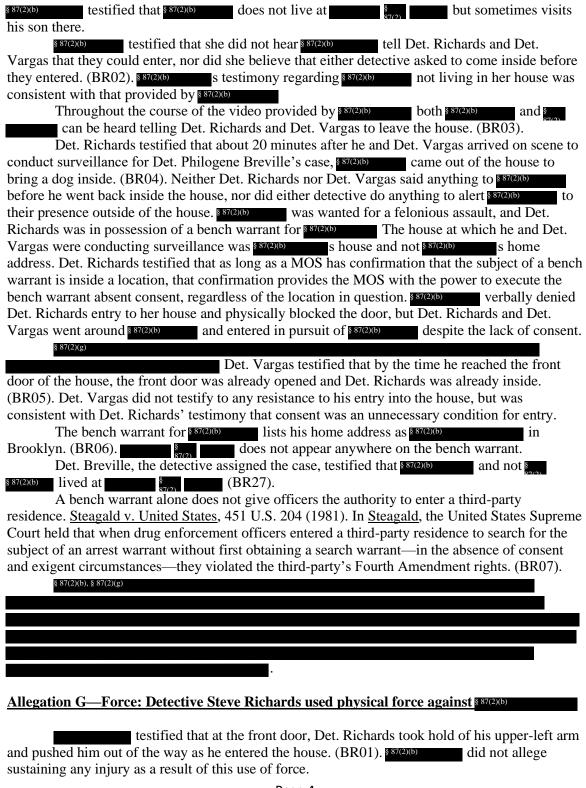
Officer(s)	Allegation	Investigator Recommendation
A.DT3 Steve Richards	Abuse: Detective Steve Richards refused to show the arrest warrant to § 87(2)(b)	
B.DT3 Steve Richards	Abuse: Detective Steve Richards refused to show the arrest warrant to § 87(2)(b)	
C.DT3 Steve Richards	Abuse: Detective Steve Richards entered in Brooklyn.	
D.DT3 William Vargas	Abuse: Detective William Vargas entered § 87(2)(b) in Brooklyn.	
E.DT3 Steve Richards	Abuse: Detective Steve Richards searched § 87(2)(b) in Brooklyn.	
F.DT3 William Vargas	Abuse: Detective William Vargas searched \$87(2)(b) in Brooklyn.	
G.DT3 Steve Richards	Force: Detective Steve Richards used physical force against \$87(2)(6)	
H.DT3 Steve Richards	Abuse: Detective Steve Richards threatened to arrest \$87(2)(b)	
I.DT3 Steve Richards	Force: Detective Steve Richards used physical force against \$87(2)(6)	
J.DT3 William Vargas	Force: Detective William Vargas used physical force against \$87(2)(6)	
K.DT3 William Vargas	Abuse: Detective William Vargas interfered with suse of a recording device.	
L. Officers	Abuse: Officers searched § 87(2)(b) in Brooklyn.	
M.DT3 William Vargas	Abuse: Detective William Vargas threatened with the use of force.	
N.DT3 Steve Richards	Abuse: Detective Steve Richards threatened with the use of force.	
O. Officers	Force: Officers used physical force against § 87(2)(b)	
P.DT3 William Vargas	Discourtesy: Detective William Vargas spoke discourteously to \$87(2)(b)	
Q.DT3 William Vargas	Abuse: Detective William Vargas did not obtain medical treatment for § 87(2)(b)	
R.DT3 William Vargas	Force: Detective William Vargas used physical force against \$87(2)(b)	

## **Summary of Complaint**

On June 21st, 2017, Captain Joseph Taylor of the 70th Precinct reported a portion of this complaint to the IAB Command Center by phone. IAB forwarded the complaint to the CCRB, where it was received on June 27th, 2017. On June 21st, 2017, \$87(2)(b) another portion of this complaint to the IAB Command Center by phone. IAB forwarded the complaint to the CCRB, where it was received on July 27th, 2017. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at approximately 4:00PM, \$87(2)(b) and § 87(2)(b) in Brooklyn, when Det. Steve Richards of the Brooklyn South Warrant Section refused to show \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) a warrant (Allegations A Det. Richards and Det. William Vargas of the and B: Abuse of Authority, § 87(2)(g) Brooklyn South Warrant Section entered and searched the house (Allegations C-F: Abuse of Authority, § 87(2)(g) As Det. Richards entered, he pushed \$87(2)(b) (Allegation G: Det. Richards threatened to arrest \$87(2)(b) (Allegation H: Abuse Force, § 87(2)(g) and then pushed § 87(2)(b) (Allegation I: Force, of Authority, § 87(2)(g) Det. Vargas took hold of \$87(2)(6) and forcefully pulled down on the handcuff around \$87(2)(b) s right wrist (Allegation J: Force, \$87(2)(g) and by doing this interfered with \$87(2)(b) s video recording of the incident (Allegation K: Abuse of Unidentified officers searched drawers throughout the house Authority, § 87(2)(g) (Allegation L: Abuse of Authority, \$87(2)(g) who was arrested as a result of this incident, alleged that Det. Vargas and Det. Richards threatened to use force against him (Allegations M and N: Abuse of Authority, § 87(2)(g) ) before unidentified officers used force against him (Allegation O: Force, § 87(2)(g) ), § 87(2)(b) alleged that Det. Vargas spoke discourteously to him (Allegation P: Discourtesy, \$87(2)(g) ), refused to obtain medical treatment for him (Allegation Q: Abuse of Authority, \$87(2)(g) and used force against him (Allegation R: Force, \$87(2)(g) provided video from her cell phone which captures a portion of the incident. **Findings and Recommendations** Allegation A—Abuse of Authority: Detective Steve Richards refused to show the arrest warrant to § 87(2)(b) Allegation B—Abuse of Authority: Detective Steve Richards refused to show the arrest warrant to § 87(2)(b) testified that on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at 4:00PM, he was at home inside \$87(2)(6) in Brooklyn, which is a private house where he lives with his sister, \$87(2)(6) he heard the doorbell ring. (BR01). \$87(2)(b) opened the front door and saw Det. Richards and Det. Vargas who told \$87(2)(b) that they needed to search his house. \$87(2)(b) Det. Richards if he had a warrant. Det. Richards told [887(2)(6)] that he did not need a warrant. No one ever showed § 87(2)(b) a warrant. testified that she heard yelling downstairs and after a few minutes went to the front door. (BR02). \$37(2)(b) asked Det. Richards and Det. Vargas where their warrant was and who they were looking for. Det. Richards and Det. Vargas did not say why Page 2

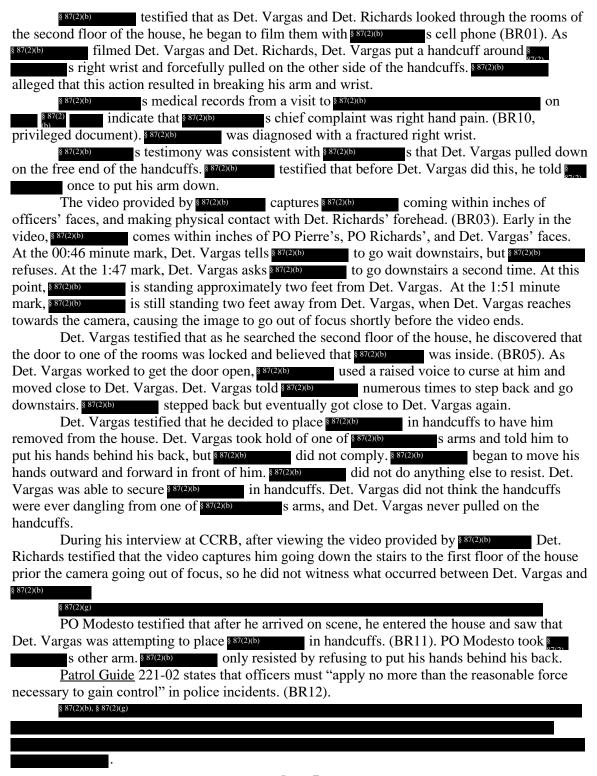
they were there and entered the house. After Det. Richards entered, \$\structure{87(2)(b)}\$ yelled "Where's your warrant," but Det. Richards ignored her. Eventually, Det. Breville arrived on scene and showed \$\structure{87(2)(b)}\$ a bench warrant for her boyfriend, \$\structure{87(2)(b)}\$ No allegation was pleaded against Det. Vargas as both he and Det. Richards testified that only Det. Richards was in possession of the bench warrant.

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201705224 20171103 1452 DM.MOV
Video of the incident indicates that both \$87(2)(b) and ask Det. Richards to show them the warrant. (BR03). At the 1:20 minute mark, Det. Vargas can be heard
responding to \$87(2)(b) s and \$87(2)(b) s questions about the warrant, but the audio is
indistinct. Aside from that moment, the detectives have no response to questions about the
warrant.
Det. Richards testified that \$87(2)(b) opened the front door and that he told
that there was a specific person he was looking for and showed her the bench warrant
(BR04). §87(2)(6) was near the door and speaking, but Det. Richards did not pay attention to
him because he was focused on apprehending \$87(2)(b) the subject of the bench warrant. After
viewing the video during his CCRB interview, Det. Richards testified that although he had shown
the bench warrant, she had not looked at it.
Det. Vargas testified that he arrived at the front door of the house shortly after Det.
Richards, and that when he arrived at the door, Det. Richards told him that he had already shown
the bench warrant to the civilians. (BR05). Several civilians in the house were yelling and saying
there was no warrant, even after Det. Richards told them that he had already shown it to them.
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
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Allegation C—Abuse of Authority: Detective Steve Richards entered in
Brooklyn.
Allegation D— Abuse of Authority: Detective William Vargas entered
in Brooklyn. Allegation E—Abuse of Authority: Detective Steve Richards searched \$87(2)(b)
in Brooklyn.
Allegation F— Abuse of Authority: Detective William Vargas searched \$87(2)(b)
in Brooklyn.
in Dissinguis
testified that after Det. Richards told him that he did not need a warrant,
Det. Richards entered the house and was followed by Det. Vargas. (BR01). \$87(2)(6) had the
door opened halfway as he spoke with the detectives. §87(2)(b) never told Det. Richards and
Det. Vargas that they could enter and in no way gestured to them to indicate that they could enter.
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testified that either Det. Richards or Det. Vargas pushed \$87(2)(6) who
had been blocking the doorway with one of his arms, such that he was no longer in the way of the
detectives entering the house. (BR02). Besides moving backwards when he was pushed,
had no reaction to this use of force against him.  Det. Richards testified that he only moved around \$87(2)(b) to enter the house, and that
was somewhere near the door, but at no point physically prevented him from
entering. (BR04).
Det. Vargas testified that he could not remember if Det. Richards made physical contact
with \$87(2)(b) (BR05).
PO Pierre testified that she went inside the house with Det. Vargas and Det. Richards.
(BR08). As Det. Vargas and Det. Richards made their way up the stairs, \$87(2)(b) blocked
their path with his body. Det. Vargas and Det. Richards made no physical contact with
and went past him up the stairs.
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
Allegation H—Abuse of Authority: Detective Steve Richards threatened to arrest
887(2)(b)
During her initial phone statement, \$87(2)(b) testified that at some point during the
incident, Det. Richards threatened her with arrest, but did not make this allegation during her in-
person interview. (BR02). As Det. Richards ascended the stairs, \$87(2)(b) blocked him with
her body. Det. Richards pushed her out of the way after requesting she move multiple times.
Det. Richards testified that at the front door of the house, he asked \$87(2)(b) to step
aside. (BR04). Det. Richards went to \$87(2)(b) s left in order to go past her and enter the
house, but she moved her body to block him. Det. Richards told \$87(2)(b) that if she blocked
him again, he would place her under arrest for obstructing governmental administration because
there was a wanted felon inside the house whom he needed to apprehend. After saying this, Det.
Richards quickly went to the right of \$87(2)(b) and moved past her into the house. \$87(2)(b)
again blocked Det. Richards on the stairs, and he again told her that she could be arrested for
obstructing governmental administration. After Det. Richards said this, \$87(2)(6) stopped
blocking him, and Det. Richards moved around her and further up the stairs.
Det. Vargas testified that when Det. Richards attempted to ascend the stairs, \$87(2)(6)
blocked him with her body. (BR05). Det. Richards told \$87(2)(b) that she could be arrested for
obstructing government administration, and then moved around \$87(2)(b) and continued up the
stairs.
NYS Penal Law 195.05 stipulates that "a person is guilty of obstructing governmental
administration when he intentionally obstructs a public servant from performing an official

People v. Perez, 47 A.D.3d 1192 established that an individual refusing an officer's
request to open his door was an exercise of his "right to be let alone" and right to refuse to respond to police inquiry. (BR26).
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
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Allegation I—Force: Detective Steve Richards used physical force against \$87(2)(b)
testified that when Det. Richards reached her spot on the stairs, he told her to
move out of the way. (BR02). street told Det. Richards that only he could go upstairs, and that she did not want the other officers to go upstairs and scare her elderly grandmother. Det.
Richards again told \$87(2)(b) that she needed to move out of the way. At this time \$87(2)(b)
was holding her \$87(2)(b) old son in her right arm. Det. Richards pushed \$87(2)(b) s
left arm. § 87(2)(b) caught herself with her right arm on the wall. § 87(2)(b) did not allege any
injury to herself or her son as a result of this use of force.
s testimony regarding this allegation was essentially consistent with that
provided by \$87(2)(6) (BR01).
In the video provided by \$87(2)(b) can be heard multiple times accusing Det. Richards of pushing her down the stairs. (BR03).
Det. Richards testified that \$87(2)(b) blocked him for a second time on the stairs and
he again told her he could arrest her for obstructing governmental administration. (BR04). After
Det. Richards said this, \$87(2)(b) stopped blocking him, and Det. Richards moved around her
and further up the stairs. Det. Richards at no point made physical contact with \$87(2)(b) After
viewing the video during his CCRB interview, Det. Richards testified that \$87(2)(6) was just
saying that he pushed her for the video.
Det. Vargas testified that as soon as Det. Richards moved around see Det. Richards make she began to yell that Det. Richards had pushed her. (BR05). Det. Vargas did not see Det. Richards make
any physical contact with \$87(2)(b)
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
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Allegation J—Force: Detective William Vargas used physical force against \$87(2)(b)
Allegation K—Abuse of Authority: Detective William Vargas interfered with \$87(2)(6)
s use of a recording device.
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§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
Legal Bureau Bulletin, Vol. 26, No. 2 indicates that individuals have a right to lawfully record police activity but they may not intrude upon an officer's zone of safety. (BR13). The zone of safety is, at minimum, the span of the officer's arms as he engages in enforcement activity. An individual who encroaches on the zone of safety and refuses orders to move back may be handcuffed and charged with obstruction of governmental administration.  §87(2)(b). §87(2)(g)
Allegation L—Abuse of Authority: Officers searched \$887(2)(b) in Brooklyn.
testified that when he returned to the house, he saw that clothes and other objects that had been in the drawers of the rooms were strewn all over the floor, and the drawers were left open. (BR01). \$\frac{87(2)(6)}{2}\$ s testimony regarding this allegation was consistent with that provided by \$\frac{87(2)(6)}{2}\$ (BR02).  Det. Breville testified that after arriving on scene, he assisted Det. Vargas and Det. Richards search the house for \$\frac{87(2)(6)}{2}\$ but did not open any drawers (BR16). At some point, Det. Richards informed Det. Breville that earlier he had recovered a firearm from the location, but
provided Det. Breville with no additional information.  Sgt. Bettex testified that the rooms inside the house were not tidy and many objects were strewn about the floor. (BR 17). Sgt. Bettex did not open any drawers nor did he see any officer do so.
Det. Richards testified that he saw a firearm lying directly on top of a bed which he recovered and vouchered. (BR04). Det. Richards denied searching through drawers or seeing any officer do so.
Property voucher #\$87(2)(b) for the firearm indicates that it was vouchered by Det. Richards and that its owner was unknown. (BR18).
§ 87(2)(b), § 87(2)(g)
Allegation M—Abuse of Authority: Detective William Vargas threatened
with the use of force. Allegation N—Abuse of Authority: Detective Steve Richards threatened \$87(2)(b)
with the use of force.
Allegation O—Force: Officers used physical force against \$87(2)(b)
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Allegation P-	—Discourtesy: Detective Will	liam Vargas spoke discourteousl	y to § 87(2)(b)
		tive William Vargas did not obta	
treatment for	§ 87(2)(b)		
Allegation R-	—Force: Detective William V	Vargas used physical force agains	<b>st</b> § 87(2)(b)
		s cooperation, the CCRB was via phone. § 87(2)(2)	
	Mediation, Civil	l, and Criminal Histories	
• T cl in th	aim regarding alleged assault, fliction of emotional distress, a has requested to be core Comptroller responded to a reference claim was filed by \$87(2)(b)	ediation due to arrests.  oller indicated that \$87(0)0 fit battery, false arrest, false imprisor and violation of his civil rights. (B mpensated two million dollars. The request on March 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2018, indicate regarding this incident. (BR25).	nment, intentional R19)
• §8	7(2)(b)		
_	Civilian and C	Officer CCRB Histories	
<ul> <li>This i</li> <li>Det. I against of wh Physic substa</li> <li>Det. V against allega</li> </ul>	st him. (BR15). The previous 1 ich was Abuse – Premises ente cal force, and one of which was antiated any of these allegation argas has been a MOS for 11 st him. (BR14). The previous s	volving \$87(2)(b) (BR24).  3 years, and this is the 16 <sup>th</sup> CCRB complaints generated a total of 2 ered and/or searched, seven of which should be a complaint of arrest. The CC	28 allegations, one ch were Force – CRB has not a complaint filed otal of 14
Squad No.:	5		
Investigator:	Signature	Print Title & Name	Date
Squad Leader	:		
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	Signature	Print Title & Name	Date
Reviewer:			
Teviewer	Signature	Print Title & Name	Date